

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

Published by Diggle Publishing, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 437th Airlift Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military service.

Contents of the *Airlift Dispatch* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, Air Force, or Diggle Publishing, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. All photos are Air Force photos unless identified otherwise.

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is noon Friday, preceeding the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

Advertising

Classified advertisements maybe referred to Diggle Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 2014, Charleston, S.C., 29465, Phone: (843) 849-1778 or e-mailed to sales@islandpapers.com. Classified advertisements are free, with the exception of personal business ads, for active duty military members and their spouses, retirees and Reservists.

Address/Numbers

Editorial content is prepared by the 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1600, Rm. 223.

Phone: (843) 963-5608

Fax: (843) 963-5604.

Mail to: 437 AW PAI

102 East Hill Blvd.

Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154

or send to:

dispatch@charleston.af.mil

Editorial Staff

437 AW Commander
Col. Vern M. "Rusty"
Findley II

Chief, Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Edmund Memi

Editor
Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith

Associate editor
Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

Staff writer
Senior Airman Jason Smith

Photo Support
Base Visual Information Center

Pride, professionalism, passion are alive on our team

By Col. Rusty Findley II
437 AW commander

The Company Grade Officer's Council Combat Dining-In last Saturday was a complete success. We had retired Lt. Gen. John Sams, former 15th Air Force commander and director of C-17 field services for Boeing as our featured speaker. Gen. Sams talked about the importance of standards and the qualities that good officers must possess. It was a real bonus to have Gen. Sams join us for the evening. The Combat Dining-In was a great opportunity for fellow officers to bond and have a little fun at the same time. A special appreciation to 2nd Lt. Zabrina Robinson, 1st Lt. Jim Hackett and members of the CGOC Dining-In committee for putting together a first-class event. You could easily tell that a lot of hard work and preparation had gone into the event. It was a lot of fun!

I had an opportunity to watch Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Gen. Charles "Tony" Robertson, commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, dedicate one of our C-17s on Tuesday at Pope AFB, N.C., as the "Spirit of the Airborne," symbolic of our strong ties with our biggest customer, the United States Army. We also participated in the festivities by doing an airdrop and doing a flyover at the Special Operations museum in downtown Fayetteville, N.C.

I made the 92-mile trip by car to the base fire station at North Auxiliary Airfield, near Orangeburg, to meet with eight of our firefighters who are on 24-hour shifts providing an important firefighting mission to our C-17s. I met with Tech. Sgt. Bill Daniel, Staff Sgt. Donovan Baldwin, Senior Airman Fredrick Wade, Senior Airman Todd Barnett, Senior Airman Mako Gil, Senior Airman Joseph Petree, Airman 1st Class Daniel Lee and Airman 1st Class Matthew Reichle.

It was a good visit for me as I learned about many of the concerns of our firefighters and also met with members of the 437th Aerial Port Squadron aerial delivery and mobility flights who are at North seven days a week picking up the many training loads that our aircrews airdrop and bringing them back to the base. I met with Staff Sgt. Michael Stephens, Senior Airman Robert Satterwhite, Senior Airman Kevin Davis, Airman 1st Class Justin Smilo, Airman 1st Class Robert Omeara, and Airman 1st Class Mitchell Sorrells. There is usually a team of six people there everyday, working out of the aerial port facility where the old fire house used to be located.

Last but not least, I had a chance to meet with Staff Sgt. Gregory Owen and Senior Airman Paul Goebel, combat controllers from the 21st Special Tactics Squadron at Pope AFB, N.C., who safely guide our aircraft in and out of North six days a

week, 24 hours a day from the tower at the airfield. They spend a week TDY at a time.

It was great to tour the airfield and meet with the many airmen who do a terrific job of supporting our flying mission.

I toured the renovated Command Post on Aug. 8 and had a good chance to meet with several controllers. The renovation consisted of a new room for the Crisis Action Team, a place where senior leadership meets during a crisis or major contingency. I also saw the new Air Mobility Advanced Console System.

This new command and control communications system is used by the Command Post to maintain connectivity with higher headquarters, commanders, and customers via administrative lines and UHF/VHF radio capability. The system consists of 12 console positions. The system significantly expanded the number of lines available to a controller to make a "one-touch" connection to numerous agencies.

During this installation, the Command Post redesigned the physical layout of the Maintenance Aircraft Coordination Center, the Operations Management Center and also had the entire floor space re-carpeted. The previous layout design forced OMC controllers to talk to the back of MACC controllers heads, and MACC controllers had to turn around away from their consoles to talk to the OMC. They now sit face-to-face, greatly enhancing communication between the two centers.

Our fitness center will be getting a great new addition—a "cardio-theater." This project is another Year of the Family spawned idea. The cardio theater will allow us to dedicate a large room for the fitness center's cardiovascular equipment such as stair step machines and treadmills while offering a wide variety of TVs, radios and CD players for people to watch and listen with their own personal headsets. The fitness center averages about 1,000 visitors a day and more than half the center's patrons use this cardio

equipment, so we know it will get plenty of use and mean a lot to everyone. We hope to start construction this year, with completion due sometime next summer.

The 437th Medical Group hosted a health fair in the Base Exchange this Monday. The fair included a number of displays and exhibits as well as free health screening. There was lots of good information available, from how to deal with mosquitoes to good food safety practices. I enjoyed my visit to the fair and thank the Health and Wellness Center for their efforts to better educate Team Charleston about choosing a healthy lifestyle.

A 17th Airlift Squadron aircrew, comprised of Maj. Jeff Smith, Maj. Scott Walker, Tech. Sgt. Reynold Albright and Senior Airman Joe Ortiz saved the government thousands of dollars by figuring out a way to load two U.S. Marine HH-60s onto a C-17 when one of the two planes sent to haul them had a problem with a winch that is used to load them. It was the crew's "out-of-the-box" thinking that figured out a way to load the two helicopters onto a single jet, got their ideas fully coordinated with headquarters, and ensured the mission from Boise, Idaho to Chicago was a success. Air Mobility Command liked their ideas so much, that they are working to make this the new standard for moving these helicopters in the future. The crew received wing coins for doing their jobs with pride, professionalism and passion.

There are a number of professional associations meeting in the upcoming weeks at the base that feature some very interesting guest speakers. Everyone is invited to the Order of Daedalians meeting, Aug. 24 at 6 p.m. at the Charleston Club (Daedalian Room). Retired Lt. Col. Bill Paige will be the featured guest speaker. He began flying in Steerman biplanes and flew in various aircraft for his entire 38-year career. RSVP at 963-3203.

The Charleston chapter

see Commentary, page 18



Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky

A car wash was held recently as a fundraiser for information managers on base.